



SPIRITS BALKED.

"Revivals" a Failure When Attended by Mormon Elders.

Writing from Victoria, B. C., under date of Dec. 26, Elder James S. Lowe reports that the Gospel work is making fairly good progress, considering the disadvantages there is to contend with. Street meetings are being held quite frequently and much good is being accomplished in that way. The prejudices of the people seem to be the worst foe of the Elders.

A good time has been had by Saints and Elders during Christmas time. The Elders attended, out of curiosity, one of a series of revival meetings, which had aroused considerable interest on account of the peculiar "songs" during the services. The spirits didn't work when the Elders were present, and the minister asked them to withdraw. He explained that his meetings were a failure so long as they remained. When a friend of the Elders called on the "reverend" for an explanation, he said that he would not have a "Mormon" in his meetings if he could help it, as the meetings were a complete failure when they were present, a fact, he said, he could not account for.

A FRIEND TO THE ELDERS.

Falls Victim of La Grippe in Louisiana.

Husser, La., Dec. 25.—On Dec. 15, 1904, the friends and relatives of Byron T. Chambers were deeply shocked by his sudden death. He has always been a warm friend to the Elders of the Louisiana conference, especially those laboring in the Tule Lake parish. The cause of his death was a sudden attack of la grippe. He leaves a wife, three married children, 14 grandchildren and a large circle of friends who deeply regret his departure and whose hearts beat in sympathy for the bereaved wife and children.

TEXAS COLONY THRIVING.

Kelsey, Texas, Jan. 7.—Our colony here is thriving nicely. The Saints honored our martyred Prophet by commemorating his birthday with an interesting and appropriate program. The following program was rendered: Song by the choir, "Praise to the man;" prayer by Brother Wm. Kizer; song by the choir, "Joseph Smith's First Prayer;" address of welcome by President Wm. R. Lee; song by Brother J. C. Puckett; recitation by Elder W. D. Johnson; song by Lucius and Sallie Aaron; music by Brother Eld Hall and company; "Life of the Prophet" by Elder David Doble; song by Miss Fannie Cox and company; recitation by Miss Abbie Buckley; music by Runnels brothers; recitation by Miss Della Buckley; closing remarks by Elder W. D. Johnson; song by the choir, "Oh, give me back by Prophet dear;" benediction by Elder R. E. Phillips.

The holidays passed off quietly, a public Christmas tree was had, and everyone was remembered. The health of the colony is good at present. Within the last two months 15 families have come here to become permanently located, which makes about 55 families here in the colony.

The soil is very good here, no fertilizers are necessary. It is well adapted for the production of cotton, corn, wheat and fruit. Peaches do very well. Rainfall is sufficient to insure good crops. Winters are mild, no snow having fallen for over two years. Water and timber are here in abundance. Mills are handy and lumber can be had for \$5 per M. Good well water can be had by digging from 20 to 30 feet.

Kelsey is located six miles west of Gilmer, the county seat of Upshur county, on the Texas Southern railroad. The sawmills and railroads furnish labor for laboring men. Wages run from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, and several are busily engaged in building up the Kingdom of God. All Saints and honest investigators are most cordially welcomed. There is no persecution from those surrounding us. This colony has settled 50 years ago by a good class of people.

This place was dedicated for the gathering of the Saints by Apostle Woodruff and President Duffin two years ago, and we are getting some excellent people here. Perhaps if you take everything into consideration, this is the best place now open for settlement as a colony for the Saints in the south.

W. DE WITT JOHNSON.

Christmas at La Crosse, Wis.

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 28, 1904.—Following is a brief account of our Christmas celebration at the La Crosse branch:

At 11 a. m., Dec. 26, the Saints and friends gathered at the La Crosse branch, which was decorated with evergreens and views of Salt Lake City, and a nicely ornamented Christmas tree, to spend the day in song, feasting and dance. At 1 p. m. we enjoyed a fine dinner. Immediately after our feast followed a fine program, commenced by an address of welcome by Branch President Joseph Duffin. About 8 p. m. we made the children happy by giving each one a sack of candy, nuts and fruit, while the older people sat down to a well laden table. Sister Cora Jacobson of Salt Lake City meanwhile discoursed sweet music on the organ and sang the songs of Zion. The tree was illuminated and the evening was spent in song and dance.

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Christmas in Jackson County.

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President Brigham presented the general authorities of the Church, and they were unanimously sustained.

Elder Benjamin F. Cluff spoke on the first principles of the Gospel. Elder Albert R. Richins said that all blessings came through obeying the principles of the Gospel. Elder John W. B. Young bore his testimony and was pleased to be in the mission. Elder William F. Davidson said that if the people of the world would judge the Latter-day Saints by their fruits, as the Savior said, they would know that we were keeping the commandments of God.

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Wayne Stake.

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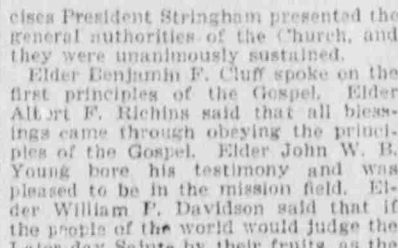
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